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# Russian Ex-U.N. Employee Says Soviet Violates Charter

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A former Soviet employee here who defected rather than return to Moscow says the Soviet Mission is violating the United Nations Charter by requiring Soviet citizens who work for the Secretariat to follow the mission's orders.

They also must provide a host of services for the Soviet Government, according to the former Secretariat employee, Vladimir V. Yakimetz.

Mr. Yakimetz, 47 years old, held a middle-level position in the Office of Program Planning and Coordination, which makes long-range plans for the administration of the United Nations.

According to United Nations rules, the Soviet Government should have had no control over Mr. Yakimetz. According to Article 100 of the Charter, a Secretariat employee is forbidden to "seek or receive instruction from any government."

Yet, in interviews here recently, Mr. Yakimetz detailed what is privately conceded by diplomats and officials: that Soviet citizens working in the Secretariat are expected to provide services to their Government.

## 'Under Mission's Orders'

"I functioned directly under the mission's orders," he said. "I did not lift a finger without the Soviet Mission knowing about it. We might be asked to analyze a certain report or to prepare materials for a particular agenda item at the General Assembly. You can be asked to spy on your division at the U.N. Certainly, you are asked to report on transfers and promotions, to find out where there might be chances to get in more Soviet employees."

For two years, Mr. Yakimetz was on a six-member committee that advised the appointments and promotions board of the Secretariat. In that post, he said, he operated directly under instructions from the Soviet Mission.

"It was my direct responsibility to see that every Russian proposed by the Government was admitted," he said. Another obligation was to block action on people the mission deemed undesirable.

Mr. Yakimetz, a former physics instructor at the Moscow Physical-Technical Institute in a northern Moscow suburb, said Soviet employees were asked to collect scientific and technical data, and for that purpose he became a member of the American Physical Society.

"I sent a lot of stuff to Moscow," he said. "They were pretty interested in it. As a member of the American Physical Society, I received newsletters and magazines."



The New York Times/Chester Higgins Jr.

Vladimir V. Yakimetz, a Soviet defector and former employee of the U.N. Secretariat, with his wife, Alla, in their Manhattan apartment.

## Products on Strategic List

He added that, as a member of the Secretariat, he found himself in communication with American companies involved in high technology.

Not one of the papers that Mr. Yakimetz saw was secret. But, he said, "some of the products, I presume, are on the strategic list, because some of the manufacturers I corresponded with were among the companies that were selling strategic equipment to Moscow through third countries."

A spokesman for the Soviet Mission, Anatoly N. Khudyakov, said he had no comment on Mr. Yakimetz's remarks.

Mr. Yakimetz said he defected because he feared that the Soviet Government was trying to cut short his career at the United Nations. He said that, in late 1982 and early 1983, the personnel director of the Soviet Mission pressed him to seek a leave of absence to return to Moscow and train a replacement. He was granted political asylum in February 1983.

## Contract Extension Denied

Last December, under pressure from the Soviet Mission, the office of Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar refused to extend Mr. Yakimetz's contract. A spokesman for Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar said that Mr. Yakimetz, having been temporarily assigned to the United Nations by his Government, could not stay against its will.

Most Western employees of the Secretariat are private citizens, although many have earlier served in their governments. But citizens of most Communist countries are employed by their governments and are detached to work for the Secretariat.

Some senior Secretariat officials concede that the Russians do not technically adhere to the rules on the independence of international civil servants, and staff members with knowledge of Soviet practices say that, in effect, even when Eastern bloc citizens serve in the Secretariat they are treated as if they are still members of their own government bureaucracies.

## Appeal Is Unsuccessful

Mr. Yakimetz appealed the decision of the Secretary General's office to a three-person administrative tribunal headed by a Hungarian. Last month, the tribunal, meeting in Geneva, denied the request.

Mr. Yakimetz began his career at the United Nations in 1969 when he left his teaching post to become a technical translator in the Secretariat. After five years, he returned to Moscow to study at the Academy of Foreign Trade. He returned to New York in 1977, again as a United Nations translator. Three years ago he was transferred to the Office of Planning and Coordination.